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File photo of National Medical Commission staff taking an Integrity Pledge

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PMO SEEKS ACTION AGAINST NMC MEMBERS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

The PMO has sought appropriate action on a complaint against non-disclosure of assets by National Medical Commission (NMC) members

RTI PETITION LANDS THEM IN TROUBLE

NMC members have not disclosed their assets on the official website, thus violating the NMC Act 2019, said Kerala-based ophthalmologist Dr K V Babu, who has filed a Right To Information petition with the PMO. The PMO has asked the Union Health Ministry to look into the issue. Babu said NMC was stonewalling his requests, while the ministry was evasive

LICENSE TO PRACTICE CAN BE SUSPENDED

■ The NMC came into being in 2020 after the Medical Council of India was disbanded following sharp criticism that it was not transparent in its functioning and was plagued with corruption | P9
■ The non-compliance of the NMC Act would mean members can be removed and their license to practise medicine can be suspended

33

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VILVANAADA • BENGALURU • KOOCH • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KODHMODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • THIRUPATI • THIRUCHY • TRUNEDVELU • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEN • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI

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OpenAI fires Sam Altman, Murati named interim CEO

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

CHATGPT-creator OpenAI pushed its co-founder and CEO Sam Altman out of the firm, accusing him of not being consistently candid on his communications with the board.

"The board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading OpenAI," the company said. It has appointed Mira Murati, OpenAI's chief technology officer, to an interim CEO role effective immediately.

Besides Altman, OpenAI's Greg Brockman was also removed from the board. "Sam and I are shocked and saddened by what the board did today," Brockman said on X.

OpenAI was founded as a non-profit in 2015, and Infosys was one of its first backers. In 2019, Microsoft made investment in it.

Altman was in India in June and said AI chatbot has witnessed several early adopters in the country.

The tech industry was surprised with the firing of Altman who is considered a tech wizard.

"This decision, while bold, has left many in the tech industry both surprised and contemplative about the future direction of AI," former Twitter India head Manish Maheshwari told this paper.

"The tech world is increasingly grappling with the dilemma of aligning technological innovation with ethical considerations. OpenAI's recent move signals a shift towards prioritising ethical AI development over immediate commercial benefits." P12

WITH THIS ISSUE
PLAYING GAMES
The exploding menace of illegal online betting apps has led to massive corruption, and is entrapping users in dangerous cycles of debt and addiction
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE



India captain Rohit Sharma and his Australia counterpart Pat Cummins pose with the World Cup trophy on Saturday | Jee

Surya Kiran to shine over today's final

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE Surya Kiran Aerobic Team, known for stealing a million hearts at Aero India in Bengaluru, will now be the showstopper at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Gujarat on Sunday afternoon before India takes on Australia in the final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

The nine-aircraft team formed in 1996 will enthral over 1,32,000 spectators at the stadium. "The team is all set to showcase its zeal and even take away the thunder with the aerial aerobatic display where the final match of ICC Men's World Cup 2023 will be held," said a pilot.

According to the BCCI, the aerobatic display will be held from 1.35pm to 1.50pm soon after the national anthem. It is for the first time the pilots are performing for a closed gathering. "The thrill is not just the display, but the close synchronised formations that are done. The existing formations have been modified in such a manner that they will be visible to the audience sitting at the stadium as their visual bubble will be small compared to ones who see it at the air shows or from the runways. The team has specially trained in Bidar and at the location (stadium) for this adjusted for the visuals of the audience," an IAF officer said. All the sorties the Surya Kiran team is known for, including the barrel roll maneuver, victory formation and the missing man formation, will be showcased along with its signature - tricolour and heart formations.

All roads lead to Ahmedabad

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Ahmedabad

THE Gandhi Ashram, as one can imagine, is a popular destination in Ahmedabad. Outside of it, the Sabarmati Riverfront sees people of all demographics milling about, especially in the night. If it's neither, the taste buds take over as the city hosts some of the biggest vegetarian thalis in service. It's so popular that Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer and the support staff paid a visit to one such restaurant on Friday night.

However, Gate 1 of the Narendra Modi Stadium has dwarfed all of the above-mentioned places in terms of the hottest destination in town. Demand for tickets has gone through the roof. On one reselling website, each ticket was being sold for ₹8.32 lakh. Now, the Stadium is a pride of place for many. It has hosted a political rally. It has hosted an IPL final. It has hosted a pink-ball Test. It has hosted an entire T20I series. A World Cup final, though, exists in a bubble of its own. One only needed to listen to Pat Cummins to understand that. "In terms of pinnacle, I think it's right up there," he said. "It's got the longest history. You only get a shot at it every four years. So, even if you have a long career, you might only play in two of these events. 2015 is still a career highlight for me. If we win, we might pip it." P17

It will be nice to win it because we have worked hard. Again, we don't want to get too excited. A balanced atmosphere, balanced thinking at this stage will be nice
Rohit Sharma

BRO WORKS ON VERTICAL HOLE OPTION AT TUNNEL

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

With a horizontal rescue shaft into the rubble of an under-construction tunnel in Uttarakashi getting stuck due to drilling equipment failure by more than a day, officials scammed to expedite other options parallelly, including a platform for a vertical hole to evacuate 41 labourers stranded behind the debris.

The headcount of the stuck labourers went up by one on Saturday, embarrassing officials and annoying relatives of the workers. The 41st labourer was identified as Deepak Kumar, a resident of Gijas Tola in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) hopes to build an alternative route to the tunnel by Sunday afternoon for drilling the vertical hole. "One option is to make a four-six inch long hole to provide essential items to the trapped people," said R S Rao of the Directorate General Border Roads. If possible, a 3 ft diameter hole will also be made to evacuate the labourers. But other experts are wary as they fear it could trigger further collapse from the roof of the tunnel.

Other plans on the table include perpendicular drilling, said Bhaskar Khulbe, former advisor to the prime minister and now OSD in the Uttarakhand government.



The American drilling machine that is now dysfunctional at the collapse site

With the US-made drilling machine developing a snag, a similar high-performance auger machine from Indore was being assembled at the accident site to resume horizontal drilling, officials said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office Mangesh Dabral reached Silkyara to take stock of the situation. Also, an expert from an Australian consultancy company that is associated with Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd has reached the site.

With anxiety mounting as the labourers have been stranded in the tunnel for a week, angry workers led by advocate Prashant Prasad staged a protest against the project promoter and developer for delay and failure in the rescue.

The post of Speaker above any religion, says Khader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

LEGISLATIVE Assembly Speaker UT Khader on Saturday took a veiled dig at Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan and said the Speaker's post is above religion.

Zameer's statement that the Congress had appointed a Muslim as the Assembly Speaker and senior BJP legislators now have to bow before him in the House led to a controversy, drawing sharp criticism from the Opposition. Khader said he was not appointed as the Speaker based on his religion. "As the Assembly Speaker, I am not associated with any political party. I do not want to comment on any individual's statement. This post has nothing to do with any political party, caste or religion. I work as per our Constitution. If anybody respects me, it is for my post and I will ensure to protect its sanctity," he said.

Meanwhile, MP Nalin Kumar Kateel sought Zameer's resignation. "Zameer has disrespected the Speaker's post by painting it with a religious colour. It shows Zameer's mindset. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah must seek Zameer's resignation," he said.

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